

REMARKS

The present application is to be considered a divisional or continuation application, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 120, of parent U.S. application 10/222,167. This application has been amended to cancel claims 1-93, 115, 124-133, and 135-221 and to add claim 222 to voluntarily assist the examiner to consider the remaining claims herein. The remaining claims from the parent application are independent apparatus and method claims 94, 108, and 222 with dependent claims 95-107, 109-114, 116-123, and 134. Added claim 222 represents previous claim 129 written to incorporate all previous limitations.

It may be helpful to note that the remaining claims were the subject of a favorable search and examination by USPTO personnel in PCT Application No. PCT/US00/07779. In that PCT proceeding, all claims remaining in this application were indicated as allowable. Should this not be the case, it is requested that the examiner contact the undersigned by telephone so that any remaining issues or formalities may be most efficiently addressed.

As mentioned, the applicant has voluntarily reduced the amount of claims presented in the outstanding divisional application to assist the examiner in his efforts to consider this application. It should be understood that the applicant has canceled the indicated claims without waiving the right to add or re-claim claims and subject matter such as dependent claims already disclosed herein or to file other applications such as continuations, divisionals, or continuations-in-part for any remaining claims or subject matter.

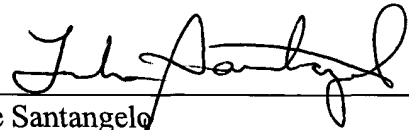
The enclosed fee sheet is based on the claims remaining after this preliminary amendment.

CONCLUSION

Claims 93-114, 116-123, 134 and 222 remain in the application. The applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims at an early date.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,
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